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Role of Jordanian Universities E-Libraries in E-Publishing Process for Postgraduate Students

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Abstract

The current study aimed at examining the role of Jordanian e-libraries in supporting e-publishing process from perspective of postgraduate students within governmental and private universities. Variables of e-library support were taken that included (Digital Services, Electronic periodicals, IT Infrastructure and Scientific Support). Quantitative approach was used depending on an online questionnaire that was distributed on (418) students from different academic levels. Results of study accepted the main hypothesis and there appeared an impact of universities e-library services on e-publishing process from perspective of students. Variable of scientific support appeared to have the highest correlation level with a variance of 67.6% of the relationship while other variables had a medium correlation level. Study recommended upgrading the level of e-services and creating new electronic services for the libraries searched sites on the Internet, and the necessity of investing in the e-services provided by the Internet in their websites and cooperation between university libraries in the field of communication among them.

Keywords: E-Library, E-Services, Librarian, Cloud, E-periodicals, E-Publishing, Postgraduate, Researcher

Introduction

After university libraries were, not long ago, mere places to preserve intellectual production and put it at the disposal of its students, modern information and communication technology has come today to allow more space for libraries to become a distributor and electronic resource for knowledge for everyone who requests it while at home, at work, or anywhere else where he is. The beneficiary, and the Internet is perhaps the most important component of information technology that has enabled university libraries and helped them so far in providing information to the beneficiaries and even securing their access to various electronic information sources stored locally or in remote locations (Umukoro and Tihamiyu, 2017), in addition to that, modern technology has also enabled university libraries to convert their traditional printed and non-print collections into electronic forms that can be made available to their beneficiaries remotely, not to mention that the advent of information technology for computer technologies with communication, digital imaging and animated visual films with sound also enabled university libraries to provide a powerful combination and good methods of transmitting and making information available and communicating it to the beneficiary: in the place he decides and in the manner that suits them, all of this within what is known as "freedom of access to information", which has become a large and important global concern, as it is considered a human and democratic right that expresses the level of progress and the urbanization that societies have reached to (Anym, 2018).

The concept of scientific publishing is witnessing a lot of change in all scientific, economic and political fields, and electronic publishing is one of the processes that remain in constant development and do not anchor a specific mechanism. Journals and libraries are competing all the time in providing the best, fastest and most modern electronic publishing service (Daramola, 2016).

Moulaison and Million (2015) confirms that electronic publishing is one of the most important means of academic communication, which allows the spread of information and its circulation among

individuals in the vicinity of the scientific environment, in addition to that scientific publishing is a means of encouraging scientific research because of its positive effects on the academic environment in countries, and thus It can be said that electronic publishing - since its emergence - has greatly contributed to the provision of the scientific environment in various countries regardless of the extent of its development with all the information used and new ideas that would raise the level of the individual in his environment.

Problem Formulating

University libraries, like other institutions, organizations and bodies, have strived to benefit from computer applications and software, so they have established their own communication networks, and they have shared with others in multiple networks and information bases, and their main goal of all this is to serve the beneficiaries, foremost among whom are members of the institution regardless if they were teachers or/ and graduate students (Okyere-Kwakye and Nor, 2020).

Those in charge of university libraries in particular, there is no doubt that they are keen to benefit from the information of modern technology to develop their library services and gain the satisfaction of the beneficiaries with them, and it is imperative that the presence of various library networks and numerous information databases may contribute and facilitate for many libraries to achieve their goals aimed at meeting the needs of the beneficiaries. Effectively, efficiently, and rationalizing spending, sharing with other libraries in collections and sources of information, and obtaining information in a machine-readable form instead of some printed sources (Hassanin, 2016).

Kononova and Lyapin (2016) added that e-libraries now are presenting the services of open/free access to scientific material, this idea of free access to information is to make informational content free and available globally via the Internet, as the publisher keeps archives on the line that are freely accessible, or he has deposited information in an open and widely available repository, and free access is a new style of publishing to free researchers and libraries from restrictions imposed on them (Barhoumi, 2016). On the other hand, Ekong and Ekong (2018) stated that the free or open access to information is the dedication of the principle of free access to scientific publications to counter the huge increase in the prices of scientific journals, this is from the economic point of view, but from the communicative point the principle is the rapid circulation of scientific information among researchers and obtaining better views of the scientific literature.

Literature Review

E-Publishing

Libraries usually provide publishing services as one of the services they provide to the beneficiaries as a trend towards encouraging individuals searching for electronic publishing, and libraries in all its forms try to demonstrate the importance of electronic publishing and its academic and scientific value not only for the publisher, but for individuals searching for information (Robertson and Simser, 2013). Garg and Sharma (2017) indicates that interest in electronic publishing services is one of the most important steps in which the library helps its beneficiaries to access materials, research and publications that have value regardless of their content, yet it realizes its cultural importance by providing digital preservation of these materials in addition to Helping to publish it electronically as a means of democratic access to content.

As for Ahammad (2019), it has been found that electronic publishing is one of the types of digital preservation of existing materials and research, whereby the individual publishes an article or research electronically and thus reaches millions of users who in turn contribute to the process of preserving this material and ensuring that it is not lost, and perhaps In the past, and before technology entered the world of libraries, a lot of valuable research had been lost to mankind, which disappeared due to loss, neglect or damage.

Supporting E-Publishing through University E-Libraries

Iglezakis et al (2010) argued that agreements in the field of libraries, especially university ones, refer to the situation in which university libraries make agreements between them and between scientific journals or scientific search engines in order to obtain authorization to access the database and access the information and research contained therein (Anyim, 2018). The agreements are represented in general policies and mandates that contribute to giving university libraries the authority to enter various databases and access to various research outputs, whether they are publications, research, or books, in addition to the possibility of using their data by individuals benefiting from university libraries, in particular students (Umukoro and Tihamiyu, 2017).

E-publishing between University E-Libraries and the Idea of Free Access

E-publishing has represented a challenge for libraries due to the continuous development, in addition to the fact that the journals that usually handle the publishing tasks offer their services at high prices and sometimes fees that may be unreasonable, this matter has led to the tendency of journals to impose fees also on the users of these material and not only its publishers, as if the individual desires to view an article published on this journal's website, he must become a subscriber to the journal's website in exchange for monetary amounts in order to see the published material (Souto, 2007).

Walters (2012) pointed out that the differences that university libraries make from scientific electronic journals are the idea that the materials in university libraries are actually licensed and not owned materials, compared to the materials in scientific journals whose materials are usually owned by them. It allows itself the field to display this information and trade it for a fee.

Consequently, and in order to achieve a state of control over the materials and research that are published, university libraries may provide electronic publishing services to their students, or research students, who may scientifically contribute to the enrichment of the library as an imam for free or for a fee. It makes sense by relying on the Library Publishing Toolkit (Sohail and Ahmad, 2017).

On the other hand, Daramola (2016) indicated that due to the development of the contents of university libraries, and the launch of many websites of university libraries that provide electronic services to the beneficiaries, there has become a lot of pressure on the sites of scientific journals, and the specialized electronic publishing bodies for the sake of Providing opportunity and assistance to university libraries by concluding agreements whose content is the possibility of university library users from accessing publishing sites without financial compensation, and this pressure was a means of delivering scientific and academic value to libraries and assisting them in the delivery of knowledge to individuals.

Hypotheses Development

According to Umukoro and Tihamiyu (2017), Electronic transformation in libraries and information centers has become an inevitable matter, and it cannot be accomplished in the desired manner except through concerted efforts at the level of all countries and a real desire by conducting studies and research, holding conferences and exchanging experiences to create a solid base of results and recommendations to achieve this goal, which is access to libraries and electronic information centers that can support the production, preservation and organization of information and making it available to those who request it from the specialists and workers of the institution and to all members of society.

Ofua (2017) argued that the limitation of the library's role in providing knowledge and science resources to those looking for it is considered to be limited to it in a narrow concept. It provides an individual with an opportunity for self-learning that creates a creative and informed individual about the issues of his community and his surroundings, while Nazim (2018) saw that this results in a high and special culture that distinguishes each society from other societies, in addition to the role of libraries in preserving the cultural heritage of each society. , Beliefs, arts, morals, laws, customs and any capabilities that a person acquires as a result of his presence in a society, which are the matters that libraries seek to preserve and reduce over the ages, which lead us to the conclusion that the development of libraries is a true indicator by which the development of states is measured.

From perspective of Atiso (2017), it was seen that libraries bring the scientific support, since the library is the first resort for researchers and scholars, as it is the house of scientific research that students have no choice but to go to during their research process. Due to the fact that these libraries contain many important and vital books in all types of science and its fields, which enables them to obtain references easily and conveniently, in addition to the possibility of taking a quiet place suitable for study and focus.

As for Shahzadi and Hussain (2019), it was stated that the broad impact of rapid technical developments has appeared in general on the way the service is produced and delivered to customers, and university libraries have been affected by these developments in technology and have become providing many digital and technological services to the beneficiaries in order to collect information sources in various forms, in various ways and the easiest and easiest way to use them in practical searches is by relying on digital libraries and e-periodicals.

Model and Hypotheses

Based on the development of hypotheses above, and launching from facts presented earlier in literature review, researcher was able to develop the following model which draws the relationship between adopted variables in a clearer way:

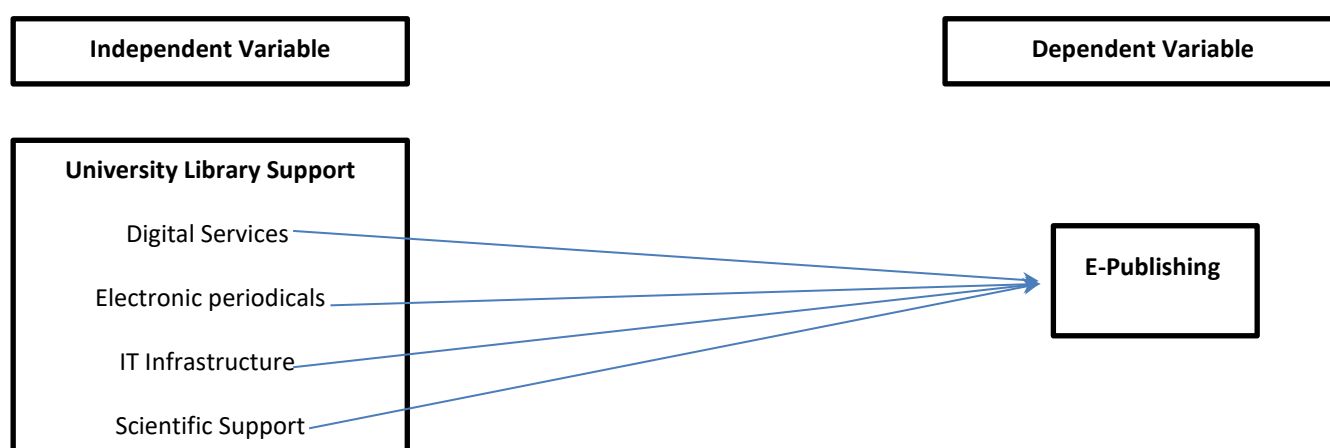


Figure 1. Study Model Iglezakis et al (2010); Simser and Robertson (2013); Moulaison and Million (2015)

From above model, following set of hypotheses was developed:

Main Hypothesis:

H: University e-library services can support e-publishing

Sub-Hypotheses

H1: Digital services in University e-library services can support e-publishing

H2: E-periodicals in University e-library services can support e-publishing

H3: Open access to journals in University e-library services can support e-publishing

H4: IT infrastructure in University e-library services can support e-publishing

H5: scientific support in University e-library services can support e-publishing

Methods

Methodological Approach

Current study realized its aim and objectives depending on quantitative approach. The quantitative approach presented numerical data that reflected the reality of respondents' attitudes towards hypotheses of study.

Tool of Study

A questionnaire was employed as a tool of study to collect the primary data, the questionnaire consisted of two main sections, the first took into perspective demographics of study sample (age, gender, qualification and experience), while the other section presented statements that are related to study variables including (Digital Libraries, Electronic periodicals, Open Access to Journals, IT Infrastructure, Scientific Support and Agreements). The questionnaire was built on likert 5 scale (5 strongly agree, 4 agree, 3 neutral, 2 disagree, and 1 strongly disagree).

Population and Sample of study

Population of study consisted of all students from different educational levels (BA, MA and PhD) within randomly chosen governmental and private universities, a convenient sample of (550) was chosen to represent population of study, to reach the sample, an online questionnaire was uploaded – due to COVID19 health precautions – and distributed on the study sample. After application process, researcher was able to retrieve (418) properly filled questionnaire which gave a response rate of (76%) as statistically accepted.

Data Screening and Analysis

SPSS v. 27th was used to screen and process the gathered primary data, descriptive statistics, simple and multiple regression was used in order to demonstrate attitudes to respondents towards hypotheses of study. Reliability test – through Crobach' Alpha - was adopted in order to check the consistency of study tool, Alpha value scored 0.954 which was higher than the value of 0.60, this indicated the reliability of the questionnaire.

Analysis and Discussion

Demographics Results

Sample characteristics according to demographics was calculated, as it is shown within the table below, majority of respondents were males forming 68.9% of the sample, with an age range of 28-33 years old forming 43.1% of total sample, and who held BA degree forming 63.6% of total sample.

Table 1. Descriptive Results of Sample

Gender			
		Frequency	Percent
	Male	288	68.9
	Female	130	31.1
Age			
	22-27	72	17.2
	28-33	180	43.1
	34-39	113	27.0
	+40	53	12.7
Education			
	BA	266	63.6
	MA	118	28.2
	PHD	34	8.1
Experience			
	2-4	120	28.7
	5-7	104	24.9

8-10	130	31.1
+11	64	15.3
Total	418	100.0

Questionnaire Analysis

Table 2. Descriptive Results of Statements

	Mean	Std. Deviation
University Library Support		
Digital Services		
Internet service is always available at the library premises	3.44	1.417
The library website is supported with all needed digital services	3.42	1.312
There is always a way to contact the librarian through the website	3.37	1.207
Services on the website are the same one within the library premises	3.40	1.225
The digital services presented are sufficient	3.38	1.161
Electronic periodicals		
Strongest e-periodicals are available on the website all the times	3.22	1.196
Publishing process is much easier with an open access to periodicals	3.16	1.002
The open access to strong journals have answered many publishing queries	3.13	.949
Chances of getting published is much more with the open access to journals and periodicals	3.24	.971
Open access to periodicals gives researcher more comprehensive idea about publishing	3.40	.997
IT Infrastructure		
The e-library is well developed and supported by a good server	3.28	1.031
The cloud is sufficient and supports all research needs	3.31	1.043
Many published research is found within the library website all the time	3.34	.994
The website is always working in a sufficient way	3.14	1.179
The website is designed in a supportive and convenient way	3.13	1.206
Scientific Support		
There is a chat button that serves to contact the librarians all the time	3.47	1.159
Chat is supported 24/7 on the website	3.42	1.079
There is contact info of all researchers in case a contact needed to be established	3.38	1.095
All references are available for all documents	3.33	1.039
Scientific supported is present anytime of the say for publishing queries	3.54	.964
Publishing through the university e-library is more affordable compared to other scientific journals	3.30	.941
E-Publishing		
Publishing through university e-library gives more strength to the library itself	3.15	1.256
The idea of e-publishing is widely accepted nowadays	3.29	1.192
Publishing is one of the ways to spread knowledge and science	3.24	1.147
University libraries should support e-publishing in all its forms	3.44	1.101
e-publishing gives the library more credibility	3.20	1.055

Table 3. Descriptive Results of Variables

	Mean	Std. Deviation
Digital Services	3.4000	1.07734
Electronic periodicals	3.2325	.87023
IT Infrastructure	3.2416	.92464
Scientific Support	3.3933	.88122
E-Publishing	3.2670	1.00326

Hypotheses Testing

Table 4. Testing Main Hypothesis

Through utilizing multiple regression, F value scored 219.65 as significant and p-value was less than 0.05, this result accepted the hypothesis and proved that "University e-library services can support e-publishing". Also it was found that $r = 0.825$ reflected high level of correlation and the independent variables explained **68%** of the variance in the dependent variable.

Table 5. Testing 1st Hypothesis

Model Summary						
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate		
1	.397 ^a	.158	.156	.92186		
ANOVA						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	66.200	1	66.200	77.900	.000 ^b
	Residual	353.524	416	.850		
	Total	419.724	417			
Coefficients						

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	2.010	.149		13.448	.000
	Digital	.370	.042	.397	8.826	.000

By using Linear regression, it was found that $F = 77.90$ was significant since p-value was less than 0.05, that meant "Digital services in University e-library services can support e-publishing". Also it was found that $r = 0.397$ reflected medium level of correlation and the independent variable explained **15.8%** of the variance in the dependent variable.

H2: E-periodicals in University e-library services can support e-publishing

Table 6. Testing 2nd Hypothesis

Model Summary						
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate		
1	.462 ^a	.214	.212	.89060		
ANOVA						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	89.767	1	89.767	113.175	.000 ^b
	Residual	329.958	416	.793		
	Total	419.724	417			
Coefficients						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	1.544	.168		9.201	.000
	Electronic	.533	.050	.462	10.638	.000

By using Linear regression, it was found that $F = 113.175$ was significant since p-value was less than 0.05, that meant "E-periodicals in University e-library services can support e-publishing". Also it was found that $r = 0.462$ reflected medium level of correlation and the independent variable explained **21.4%** of the variance in the dependent variable.

H3: IT infrastructure in University e-library services can support e-publishing

Table 7. Testing 3rd Hypothesis

Model Summary						
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate		
1	.488 ^a	.238	.236	.87683		
ANOVA						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	99.892	1	99.892	129.928	.000 ^b
	Residual	319.832	416	.769		
	Total	419.724	417			
Coefficients						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.

		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	1.551	.157		9.910	.000
	Infrastructure	.529	.046	.488	11.399	.000

Through using Linear regression, it was found that $F = 129.928$ was significant since p-value was less than 0.05, this accepted the hypothesis that "E-periodicals in University e-library services can support e-publishing". Also it was found that $r = 0.488$ reflected medium level of correlation and the independent variable explains **23.8%** of the variance in the dependent variable.

H4: scientific support in University e-library services can support e-publishing

Table 8. Testing 4th Hypothesis

Model Summary						
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate		
1	.822 ^a	.676	.675	.57163		

ANOVA						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	283.794	1	283.794	868.518	.000 ^b
	Residual	135.931	416	.327		
	Total	419.724	417			

Coefficients						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients	Standardized Coefficients			
		B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	.090	.111		.811	.418
	Support	.936	.032	.822	29.471	.000

By using Linear regression, it was found that $F = 868.518$ was significant since p-value was less than 0.05, this results accepted the hypothesis that "scientific support in University e-library services can support e-publishing". Also it was found that $r = 0.822$ reflected high level of correlation and the independent variable explained **67.6%** of the variance in the dependent variable.

Discussion

Current study aimed at examining the role of university e-library services on awareness and orientation of researchers towards e-publishing. For that sake, researcher adopted the quantitative approach through an online questionnaire which was distributed on a sample of (418) individuals within Depending on SPSS as a data screening and analysis software study was able to reach following findings:

- Participants appeared to have a high level of awareness regarding the sound e-library services and the idea of e-publishing as their attitudes seemed to be positive.
- There is a big discrepancy between the electronic services provided by university libraries, in addition to not investing in some free services provided by the Internet, such as social media, talking with the librarian, and the electronic reference service.
- Results accepted the main hypothesis and there appeared an influence of e-library in university on process of e-publishing from perspective of students from different academic degrees
- Among variables of e-library support, results indicated that all those dimensions were accepted and they had an influence on e-publishing process from perspective of students. All dimensions scored a medium level of correlation except for "scientific support" which scored

a high level of correlation and a variance that explained 67.6% of the relationship. This indicated that scientific support was the most influential dimension of all.

The study proved that university libraries and the services they provide to the beneficiaries contribute to increasing awareness of the importance of electronic publishing, beginning by facilitating the task of research and academic work by providing access to all electronic journals and periodicals, in addition to providing dealing opportunities and access to search engines and virtual publishing servers and websites for books and journals.

The main objective of university libraries is to support the educational and scientific process, in addition to providing the appropriate environment for scientific research through the various services they provide to the beneficiaries. Wani (2019) agreed to this result, indicating that university services through its libraries come at the forefront of university priorities in order to achieve the main objective of its establishment. Thus, it can be said that the more and more library services are diversified, the more effective this is to increase the effectiveness of the library and improve its level by providing individuals with full use of various information sources.

Results of study indicated that open access contributed to achieving communication in the field of scientific research, exchanging ideas, making scientific research results available, enriching dialogue among researchers, and creating appropriate conditions that would contribute to the development of scientific research. The results also indicated the importance of open access in terms of helping the researcher to overcome barriers and provide free scientific research on the direct line of scientific intellectual production as it works to eliminate barriers of pricing (such as subscription fees in information sources) and licensing barriers (such as restrictions related to copyright and licensing) and that intellectual production Free ownership that makes it available to benefit from it with minimal restrictions. This is consistent with the results of Maryati et al (2018) and Kononova and Lyapin (2016).

The study proved that the concept of digital library and e-periodicals enabled libraries to reduce the spatial space within university libraries and to vanish what is known as paper information media, shelves, walls and buildings, as the process of moving the university library to a society that deals with digitally took place. And this is what was confirmed Ahammad (2019).

The relationship between libraries and electronic publishing is a reciprocal one, as there is not only an effect of library services on the electronic publishing process, but rather the opposite is true, as there is an effective effect of electronic publishing on the library services and its management, and these effects are represented in the way the library is managed, and archiving in it is in addition to the electronic publications available for use by the beneficiaries, in addition to the electronic publishing houses in marketing the library services and pushing the beneficiaries to go to libraries and use their facilities or even to access their websites and rely on them to access periodicals and electronic publications that serve them.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In this study, we tried to shed light on the extent of the ability of the Jordanian university electronic libraries to support electronic publishing in the academic research community, and to identify the most prominent services they provide to researchers as a means to support electronic publishing and focus the orientation towards it without financial or legal restriction. The most important roles that university electronic libraries play in Jordan has been highlighted through supporting educational programs on the one hand and valuing scientific research on the other hand, especially since these endeavors are considered recent launches compared to their counterparts from the libraries of developed countries' universities. The study also found a great appearance of great efforts and strong will to popularize the idea of electronic scientific publishing among researchers, students and university professors in the various universities of Jordan. The question now remains:

What is the level of Jordanian researcher's awareness of the importance of initiatives and endeavors that cost the universities of the Kingdom of Jordan exorbitant sums of money, and to what extent can they be used in the field of developing scientific research in Jordan?

In other words, do all the efforts of university libraries and their projects in support of research and scientific publishing receive consensus and a suitable research response to them, or is there a gap between initiatives and endeavors and between the cost-effectiveness of research and scientific outcomes?

From that point, current study recommends:

- Upgrading the level of electronic services and creating new electronic services for the libraries searched sites on the Internet
- The necessity of investing in the electronic services provided by the Internet in their websites and cooperation between university libraries in the field of communication among them
- The necessity of cooperation between libraries with regard to sharing electronic information sources and making use of free electronic resources.
- The necessity of making office services available in their electronic form and making use of the information and communication technology provided by the Internet
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